

REMARKS

As a threshold matter, while the Examiner has returned an initialed copy of Applicants' supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed June 20, 2002, Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated that the references included in Applicants' initial IDS filed May 8, 2001 have been considered. Applicants thus respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the references of that previously submitted IDS by initialing each reference on a copy of the IDS and returning the copy to the Applicants' representative. To facilitate the Examiner's consideration of these references, Applicants note that the Examiner has recently considered these references with respect to pending commonly-owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/724,932, with the exception of the last two listed documents in the initial IDS from National Instruments. Applicants have also included a copy of the initial IDS as filed for reference purposes.

Claims 98-109 and 119-123 currently stand allowed, and the Examiner has objected to claims 8, 13, 15, 19, 23-25, 27, 36-37, 39-43, 45, 55, 77 and 80-83 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations from the claims on which they depend. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 26, 28-35, 38, 44, 46-54, 56-76, 78-79, 84-97, 110-118 and 124-130 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Theimer et al.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the pending claims. While Applicants disagree that the prior art renders obvious any of the previously pending claims (for example, while the Examiner did not note which of the two Theimer references that he cited was being relied upon, those being U.S. Patent No. 5,611,050 and U.S. Patent No. 5,493,692, Applicants believe that the pending claims are allowable over both Theimer references), Applicants have amended the claims in order to expedite prosecution so that all of the pending claims are in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, as discussed in greater below. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to timely indicate allowance of all pending claims.

In particular, claims 62-72, 94-97, 110-118 and 128-130 have been canceled, and previously allowable dependent claims 13, 15, 19, 23-25, 27, 36-37, 39-43, 45, 55, 77, 80 and 82-83 have each been rewritten in independent form so as to include the claim elements of the claims from which they previously depended so as to thus be in allowable form.

In addition, Applicants have canceled previously allowable dependent claim 8 and incorporated its claim elements into independent method claim 1 – thus independent claim 1 as amended and its pending dependents are all in allowable form. Independent computing device claim 50 and independent computer-readable medium claim 61 have each been amended in a manner similar to claim 1, and thus claims 50-61 are similarly allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In a similar manner, Applicants have canceled previously allowable dependent claim 81 and the dependent claims 74-75 and 78-79 from which it depended, and incorporated their claim elements into independent method claim 73, as well as amending dependent claims 76 and 84 as a result to correct their dependencies – thus independent claim 73 as amended and its pending dependent claims 76 and 84-88 are all in allowable form. Independent computer-readable medium claim 89 has also been amended in a manner similar to claim 73, including canceling dependent claims 90-91 and amending claims 92 and 93 as a result to correct their dependencies, and thus claims 89 and 92-93 are similarly allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 73.

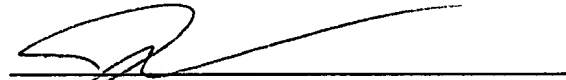
Claims 6, 26 and 100 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors, and previously allowed independent claims 98, 101, 119 and 121 continue to be allowable, as do their dependent claims. Finally, new dependent claims 131-216 have been added that each depend from allowable method claim 24, and new independent computer-readable medium and system claims 217 and 219 have been added that each recite claim elements similar to allowed method claim 24, and thus each of these newly added claims is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 24, as well as the new dependent claims 218 and 220.

Thus, claims 1-7, 9-61, 73, 76-77, 80, 82-89, 92-93, 98-109, 119-127 and 131-220 are pending and are in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are

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allowable and request the Examiner to timely allow all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6380.

Respectfully submitted,
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